

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA**

**Tuesday**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Vice Chairman Hurwitz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Herb Townsend were present for the meeting. Chairman Rod Brewer was unable to attend.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes from September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting with corrections. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Road Report – Tim Collins:**

Road Foreman Tim Collins entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners and Collins Discussed the extension to the grant from the Department of Natural Resources for testing wells in the county shop yard. Collins then discussed the topic of the roads that are being graded around the county. Collins also requested permission to purchase a new WalkNRoll to accompany the grader that the Road Department purchased in the previous fiscal year. Commissioners discussed the Road Outlay Fund in order to see if a WAlkNRoll would fit within the Road Department's budget for the fiscal year 17-18.

**Sheriff Report – Jon Lopp:**

Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Lopp presented the Commissioners with the Complaint Report for September 2017. Discussion on the complaint report took place. Lopp also stated that he and the deputies would be attending

civil disobedient training to be properly equipped and trained for the upcoming Tintina Functions if protests occur. Also that the office is preparing for the influx of hunters during rifle season.

*Jess Secrest entered the chambers at 9:40 a.m. Secrest discussed with the Commissioners the Amibcus Brief and the Declaration Letter and their differences. Chairman Brewer was interviewed by the appointed attorney to create the Declaration Letter for Meagher County. The Amibcus Brief is to be a combination of Declaration Letters from Park and Meagher County. These are to be presented in Federal Court to support the Smith Shields Project.*

*Gilda Clancy, representative from the office of Senator Daines, and Brett Simons, representative from the office of Congressman Gianforte, entered the chambers at 10:00 a.m. The representatives and Commissioners discussed the topic of Secure Rural Schools funding, PILT Funding, the Death Tax, and country of origin labeling within the beef industry. These topics are important to the welfare of the residents in Meagher County and should be brought to the attention of the senator and congressman.*

**Maintenance Update – Ken Martin:**

Maintenance Supervisor Ken Martin entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioners and Martin discussed the cost and classes that are required at this point for a boiler license. Martin stated that he will pay for the classes and the cost of the license because it is his responsibility to maintain a boiler license. Commissioners presented Martin with a letter stating he must receive a boiler license by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and that the license is necessary to remain employed with the county. Martin then brought up discussion about an employment opportunity out of state starting in the spring of 2018 and will contact the Commissioner at a later date on his decision about changing employment.

**Public Comment:**

Jim McDanel entered the chambers at 10:50 a.m.

Commissioners and McDanel discussed the email issue and the installation of the back-up server. Commissioners and McDanel ended discussion about the new contract which James McDanel dba JAM Computer will provide technical support for Meagher County for \$3,700 a month. A contract was signed.

Bethany Stienken entered the chambers at 11:10 a.m.

Stienken discussed with the Commissioners about her accomplishments that occurred during her employment and how her presence in the extension office was a positive asset to the Meagher County 4H Program. Stienken then asked the Commissioner if the County would be willing to pay health insurance through the current fiscal year dependent on new employment benefits. Commissioners said they would look into the situation and discuss with Chairman Brewer at the next meeting; the request was tabled until the next meeting.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with check number 53332 through check number 53348 and check number 53364 through check number 53375 totaling \$27,628.74. Payroll check number 12183 through check number 12219 totaling \$51,404.69. All checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Chair Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Herb Townsend were present for the meeting.

**Minutes:**

**ACTION #1**

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 meeting. Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**Treasurer Report – Sue Phelan:**

Treasurer Sue Phelan entered the chambers at 9:00 a.m.

Phelan presented the Commissioners with the September 2017 cash report and discussed the school bond monies. Phelan then asked permission to purchase Halloween candy.

**County Attorney Report – Kimberly Deschene:**

County Attorney Kimberly Deschene entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Deschene and the Commissioners discussed the situation with Tamietti House Moving & Construction; the house is to be moved on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Deschene then reported she will be contacting Sheriff Lopp about the Chinn Fire investigation and is working on a new case involving burglary and theft. Commissioners requested Deschene to look into matters of the new library building project.

**Health Nurse Report – Eva Kerr RN:**

Health Nurse Eva Kerr entered the chambers at 10:05 a.m.

Kerr presented the Commissioners with the Health Report for September 2017. Kerr started discussion with her frustrations about the technical issues with the new emails. Then Kerr updated the Commissioners about working on updating student records at the school and daycares. She also stated there will be a flu clinic at the Community Center.

**Board of Health– Eva Kerr R.N. & Sean Hill:**

Sandy Harris, Eva Kerr R.N., and Mayor Julian Theriault were present for the Board of Health meeting and entered the chambers at 10:30 a.m. Sanitarian Sean Hill was not presented.

Kerr presented report from July 2017-October 2017. There was one case of campylobacter, one case of cryptosporidiosis, and one new case of Hep C. No animal bites were reported during July 2017 through September 2017. There will be a flu clinic at the Community Center. Date and time will be posted in the local paper and placing articles on Facebook to reach the public. Kerr reported that Sanitarian Sean Hill will be completing his inspections of the businesses in town by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Harris asked if the deer in town would be carrying diseases. Kerr stated it is possible diseases could be passed from wildlife but was unsure what would be if any. Mayor Theriault reported that the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Mayor Theriault reported on creating a policy for found animals that are dropped off with Animal Control. He also reported about the sewer lagoon issue that occurred after Red Ants Pants; this issue has been resolved. The City is looking into ways for improving the water/sewage pipes around the city without creating a larger burden on the tax payers.

### **Fire/DES – Rick Seidlitz:**

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz entered the chambers at 11:00 a.m.

Seidlitz presented the Commissioners with a Fire/DES Report for October 2017. The 2017 Fire Season was discussed. Seidlitz reported that he is currently working on winterizing the engines and trucks, installing the radio system in the structure truck, and an automatic mutual aid agreement with Park County.

### **Absaroka Energy – Paul Bockus:**

Kelley Huemoeller and Eli Bailey entered the chambers at 11:25 a.m.

Bailey presented the Commissioners with copies of draft plans for feedback, Bailey and Huemmoeller explained to the Commissioners that some form of response is required by FREC in order for the draft plans to be filed. Huemmoeller and Bailey discussed the plans in brief and recommended if the Commissioners have any detailed questions or concerns to set up a meeting time with Lindsay Tollefson as she helped write the draft plans that were presented. Bailey and Huemmoeller then discussed the size of the hydro project and that the project is still looking at a 2018 date to start construction.

### **LEPC Lunch**

### **Tintina Update Hard Rock Permit – John Beaudry & Jerry Zieg:**

Jerry Zieg, John Beaudry, and John Shanahan entered the chambers at 1:30p.m. Gordon doig entered the chambers at 1:35 p.m.

Shanahan introduced John Beaudry to the Commissioners and gave background information on his work with creating the Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan for the Stillwater Mine. Discussion on the timeline of the Environmental Impact Study, other permits that must be received before construction, and how litigation would affect the project. Shanahan brought up the public scoping meetings to occur in late October and early November. The locations of the meetings are Great Falls, White Sulphur Springs, and Livingston Montana.

Beaudry entered into discussion about the Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan and what it means for Meagher County/White Sulphur Springs Community. Beaudry explained how the Impact Plan needs input or comments from the community and the local government. With local government in particular Beaudry would need to assess the impact the mine would have on each department in terms of revenues, operating costs, and capital operating costs. He explained how analyzing the operations of the local government departments can help when dispersing the new funds into

the budgets. Beaudry stated that aspects of growth with population would be assessed in the plan in regard to housing, infrastructure needs etc. He stated that there would be boards or groups created within the community and state to assist in making the impact plan to best insure it would suit the community and member of Meagher County. The Hard Rock Mining Impact Plan will take about 12 months to properly complete and is a condition of the operating permit. Beaudry then explained that the Plan is a working document that can be amended on an annual basis to best reflect the situation that happens. He then gave comparisons of how the Hard Rock Mining Plan would be for Tintina verses the Stillwater Mine. Beaudry ended discussion that the preliminary draft should be available sometime in January of 2018.

**Personnel:**

Bethany Steinken entered the chambers at 2:00 p.m.

Steinken and the Commissioners discussed her request for health insurance through the end of the 17-18 Fiscal Year. The County health insurance is available for county employees. Steinken requested severance pay for her years of service. Commissioners stated that they are unable to do that. Commissioners stated that they would like to give references for future employment ventures. Steineken thanked the Commissioners for their time.

*Mike Beckhoff entered the chambers at 2:20 p.m Beckhoff updated the Commissioners about the construction on the AWOS II Weather station. Beckhoff and the Commissioners discussed concerns about updating the masterplan for the airport; FAA would need a masterplan by October 2018.*

**Road Outlay Purchase – Bruce Smith:**

**ACTION #2**

**Resolution 2017-82**

Commissioner Hurwitz made a motion to approved purchasing a WalkNroll out of the Road Outlay fund for \$21,195.00. Chair Brewer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the purchase approved.

**Extension Report – Bob Sager:**

Extension Agent Bob Sager entered the chambers at 3:00 p.m.

Sager presented the commissioners with an extension report for September 2017. Sager reported on the 4H program and is meeting with the 4H Council Treasurer. Sager updated the Commissioners about the presentation dinner and event occurring on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

discussing cattle production. Sager then asked permission from the Commissioners to purchase drawings for the 4H Building without an engineer stamp. The drawings have been reviewed by an engineer and created by MQS Barns.

### **ACTION #3**

Commissioners approved Sager to purchase the barn drawing from MQS Barns without an engineer stamp.

### **Public Comment:**

No Public Comment.

### **Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with check number 53557 through check number 53564 totaling \$12,000.40. All checks were signed as presented.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday**

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Met in Commissioner's Chambers

### **Meeting Called to Order:**

Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Chair Rod Brewer, Vice Chair Ben Hurwitz, and Commissioner Herb Townsend were present for the meeting.

### **Minutes:**

### **ACTION #1**

Chair Brewer moved to approve the minutes from the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Hurwitz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and minutes were approved.

**IT Update – Jim McDanel:**

IT Supervisor Jim McDanel was unable to attend.

*Sheriff Jon Lopp entered the chambers at 9:15 a.m. Lopp presented the Commissioners with an agreement for housing a prisoner in Gallatin county. Then he gave a brief update about the Chinn Fire investigation and current arrests.*

**Artwork Displays - Ron Burns:**

Ron Burns entered the chambers at 9:30 a.m.

Burns presented a proposal for a sculpture to be displayed on the courthouse lawn. Artist Jim Dolan will be placing his sculptures around White Sulphur Springs and Meagher County. The goal is to promote the artist's work and beautifying the area.

**ACTION #2**

Commissioners agreed to have a sculpture displayed on the courthouse law. Burns was instructed to meet with building supervisor Ken Martin about the proper place to place the sculpture.

**Maintenance Update – Ken Martin:**

Building Supervisor Ken Martin entered the chambers at 9:50 a.m.

Commissioners and Martin discussed the boiler license issue. The Commissioners will contact Mountain View Medical Center to see if an agreement can be made for boiler maintenance. Martin agreed to a reduction in pay equal to the amount the county will have to pay Mountain View Medical Center for boiler maintenance. Martin will start to report to the Commissioners monthly. Also the barn quilt and sculpture were discussed.

**Grassy Mountain Fire Mutual Aid Agreement – Rick Seidlitz, Kimberly Deschene, and Grassy Mountain Fire Board:**

Fire Chief Rick Seidlitz and County Attorney Kimberly Deschene entered the chambers at 10:30 am. No members from the Grassy Mountain Fire Board attended the meeting.

Discussion started with the current Mutual Aid Agreement with Grassy Mountain Fire District. During discussion the topic changed to the possibility of a countywide fire district. Deschene will research the pros and cons of a countywide fir district and report her findings on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



**Public Comment:**

Clerk and Recorder Dayna Ogle and Deputy Treasurer Shauna Porter entered the chambers at 11:15 a.m.

Ogle and Porter brought up concerns about the private email server being down for a month. Commissioner will discuss with the IT Supervisor.

Alvin Kujath entered the chambers at 11:50 a.m.

Commissioner discussed the need for a reduction in workforce. Commissioners thanked Kujath for his service with the county.

**Claims Approved:**

Commissioners were presented with check number 53557 through check number 53564 totaling \$24,654. All checks were signed as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.